

CLAIMS

1. An electronic taximeter (1), which comprises:

- 5       ♦ detection means (7) able to detect a signal transmitted by a toll post (11), when the vehicle (5) equipped with the taximeter (1) passes in proximity to said post (11);
- 10       ♦ locating means (12) able to determine the location of the vehicle, said means being activated at least when the detection means (7) detect the proximity of a toll post;
- ♦ determination means able to determine the identification of the toll post thus detected, as a function of the location of the vehicle;
- 15       ♦ means able to calculate the amount of the toll thus determined;
- ♦ means (2) for displaying the amount thus calculated.

20   2. The taximeter as claimed in claim 1, wherein the detection means (7) comprise:

- ♦ a circuit (8) tuned to a frequency corresponding to that of the signals transmitted by the toll posts (11);
- 25       ♦ a rectifier (9) associated with said tuned circuit (8);
- ♦ a level detector (10) connected to said rectifier (9).

30   3. The taximeter as claimed in claim 2, wherein the tuned circuit consists of an antenna etched on a printed circuit board disposed in the taximeter or on the mount for securing the taximeter, itself intended to be installed on the rear of the  
35       windscreen of the vehicle, so as to be within the field of the transmitter of the toll post through the windscreen of the vehicle.

4. The taximeter as claimed in claim 1, wherein the

locating means (12) are able to receive the signals transmitted by the connection towers (15-19) of a cellular telephony network.

5     5.     The taximeter as claimed in claim 4, wherein the locating means are able to determine the identification number of a connection tower (16) close to the vehicle (5).

10    6.     The taximeter as claimed in claim 4, wherein the locating means comprise a cellular telephone.

7.     The taximeter as claimed in claim 4, wherein the locating means comprise a radio modem (12).

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8.     The taximeter as claimed in claim 1, wherein the locating means include a GPS positioning device.

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9.     The taximeter as claimed in claim 1, wherein the locating means are activated at the moment of detecting the proximity of a toll post.

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10.    The taximeter as claimed in claim 1, wherein the locating means are activated on the basis of detecting the proximity of a toll post (11), in such a way as to determine the alterations in the location, and in particular in the direction of motion of the vehicle (5), subsequent to the detecting of the toll post.

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11.    The taximeter as claimed in claim 1, wherein the locating means are activated continuously, in such a way as to determine the alterations in the location and in particular the direction of motion of the vehicle, as soon as the proximity of the toll post (11) is detected.

12.    The taximeter as claimed in claim 5, wherein the acquisition of the tower identification numbers is

performed at regular intervals of distance traveled.

5 13. The taximeter as claimed in claim 5, wherein the identification numbers of the towers are stored for a duration corresponding to a predetermined distance traveled.

10 14. The taximeter as claimed in claim 1, wherein the means for determining the identification of the toll post (11) as a function of the location of the vehicle comprise a database.

15 15. The taximeter as claimed in claim 14, wherein the database is programmed in the microprocessor (4) included in the taximeter (1).

20 16. The taximeter as claimed in claim 14, wherein the database can be downloaded into the taximeter.

25 17. The taximeter as claimed in claim 14, wherein the database is hosted within a remote computer site, and is interrogated during the detection of the proximity of a toll post (11).

18. The taximeter as claimed in claim 14, wherein the database includes the amount of the toll.

30 19. The taximeter as claimed in claim 1, wherein the displaying of the amount of the toll is done on the screen (2) of the taximeter.

35 20. The taximeter as claimed in claim 1, wherein the displaying of the amount of the toll is done by printing on the receipt printed at the end of the trip.

21. The taximeter as claimed in claim 1, wherein the amount of the toll is added to the amount for the

trip, at the moment of detection.

5      22. The taximeter as claimed in claim 1, wherein the  
amounts of the tolls are recorded in a  
chronological log.

23. The taximeter as claimed in claim 1, wherein the  
amounts of the tolls traversed in the for hire  
position are aggregated in a particular register.

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24. The taximeter as claimed in claim 1, wherein the  
amounts of the tolls traversed in the "On Hire"  
position are aggregated in a particular register.